

KLAUS J. BACH & ASSOCIATES  
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
4407 TWIN OAKS DRIVE  
MURRYSVILLE, PA 15668 USA  
TEL: 724-327-0664  
FAX: 724-327-0004

Case WM 130

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Thomas Halbweiss et al

Title: HARDTOP VEHICLE ROOF WITH THREE RIGID ROOF PARTS

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Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 9, 2003

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

EP 0 835 779 A1, which is considered to represent the closest state of the art, has been discussed in detail in the introductory part of the application. The reference has also been cited in the international search report.

The other references all have also been cited in the international search report, and all, including EP 0 835 779 A1, have been marked "A" as relating only to background information.

The references do not disclose that in a hardtop vehicle roof comprising a front, an intermediate and a rear roof part supported on a vehicle body so as to be movable between a closed position, in which the roof parts cover an interior vehicle space, and an open position, in which the roof parts are deposited in a storage compartment behind the interior vehicle space, wherein the rear roof part is pivotally supported on the vehicle body, the front roof part is movable under the intermediate roof part in parallel relationship therewith and the intermediate roof part is supported so as to be movable together with the front roof part into the storage compartment onto the rear roof part already pivoted into the storage compartment so as to form in the storage compartment a roof part packet with the rear roof part disposed at the bottom with its outer surface facing downwardly and the intermediate roof part disposed on top of the packet and the front roof parts is disposed between the rear and intermediate roof parts with the top surfaces of both the front and intermediate roof parts facing upwardly.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bach".

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

